

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remain of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 10 had been rejected as being anticipated by Komatsu or Fujino, while claims 1-3 and 6-13 had been rejected as being anticipated by Palmer.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 10 have been cancelled herein. This moots the rejection based on Komatsu and Fujino and leaves only the rejection based on Palmer.

Palmer has an effective US filing date of March 7, 2001. The present Application claims priority of a foreign application filed February 16, 2001, this is prior to the effective date of Palmer.

Enclosed is a certified English translation of the priority document in order to perfect the claim of priority

and to remove Palmer as a prior art reference. Applicants submit that the present Application finds support in the priority document and that Palmer is therefore no longer prior art.

Specifically, the dye, polymer having an acetal group and polyvinyl butyral of claim 3 find support in paragraphs [0015], [0024] and [0018]. The aqueous medium of claim 11 finds support in paragraph [0015]. The 50% weight ratio of claim 7 finds support in paragraph [0033].

With regard to the core-shell structure of claim 6 and the formation of the shell-phase of claim 11, a core-phase is formed when the colored particles are comprised of a single polymer and that a shell-phase is formed when the core is covered with a shell comprised of another polymer (see page 44, paragraph 2 of the Application). Support for core-shell structure is found in paragraphs [0033] and [0073] where two or more polymers are employed. Support for the formation of the shell-phase is found in paragraph [0073] where polyvinyl butyral and a chelate dye are placed in an aqueous medium before water-soluble polymer MP-203 is added and in paragraph [0034] where two polymers undergo

copolymerization before the resulting product is copolymerized with a monomer.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. PTO Form 2038 is enclosed herewith authorizing payment of the appropriate government filing fee for one extra independent claim. Should any further fees or extensions of time be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl: Executed Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132 and
Certified English Translation of
JP2001-039935.
Executed PTO Form 2038 for \$86.00
Return receipt post-card.